

VIRGINIA COMMISSION ON YOUTH

June 24, 2008
9:00 a.m.
House Room C

MINUTES

Attending: Delegates Mamye E. BaCote, Robert Brink, William H. Fralin, Jr., Chris Peace and Beverly J. Sherwood; citizen member Marvin Wagner

Absent: Delegate Mark Cole; Senators Harry Blevins, R. Edward Houck and Yvonne Miller; citizen members Vanessa Cardenas and Glen Francis

Staff Attending: Amy M. Atkinson, Leah Hamaker and Cordell Hairston

Agenda Items

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Delegate William H. Fralin, Jr.

Delegate Fralin called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Commission members introduced themselves and Delegate Fralin welcomed new members Delegates Peace and Sherwood. He recognized outgoing members Delegate Tata and Glen Francis for their contributions to the Commission on Youth.

II. CSA System Changes and the Council on Reform (CORE)

Marilyn B. Tavenner

Secretary of Health and Human Resources

Secretary Tavenner presented information on CSA system changes and the Council on Reform.

III. 2008 Activities in State Government

Due to time restraints, the document was not discussed. Copies, however, were provided to Commission members and made available to the public.

IV. Study of Truancy and School Dropout Prevention

Amy M. Atkinson, Executive Director

Delegate Fralin introduced the presentation. The two-year study, resulting from House Bill 1263 (Hall, 2008), will examine and provide recommendations to the Commission. Delegate Fralin noted that a report on Virginia graduation rates, scheduled to be published by the Department of Education (DOE) in October, may cause public concern.

In her staff presentation, Ms. Atkinson explained the need to curb chronic truancy and school dropout rates and presented preliminary findings from Commission staff's regional site visits and roundtable discussions. She noted that the DOE will conduct cohort research from 9th to 12th grades, which may bring clarity to reporting statistics.

Delegate Fralin requested Commission staff to move forward with subsequent site visits in anticipation of DOE's graduation report. He encouraged staff to prepare for education-related bills in the 2009 General Assembly Session.

V. 2008 Meeting Calendar

The next Commission meeting will be scheduled for September.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.